

## CLAIMS

1. A method for assessing a vulnerability in an image having a file and a configuration setting, comprising:

5 providing access to the image to allow the configuration setting to be manipulated;  
identifying the vulnerability in the image; and  
eliminating the vulnerability in the image by manipulating the configuration setting or file.

10 2. A method for assessing a vulnerability in an image as recited in claim 1 wherein providing access to the image to allow the configuration setting to be manipulated further includes providing access to the file and the configuration setting.

3. A method for assessing a vulnerability in an image as recited in claim 1 wherein  
15 eliminating the vulnerability in the image by further includes updating the configuration setting.

4. A method for assessing a vulnerability in an image as recited in claim 1 wherein eliminating the vulnerability in the image further includes modifying the file.

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5. A method for repairing an image comprising:

scanning the image;

detecting a vulnerability in an image;

determining a definition configured to repair the vulnerability in the image; and

5 repairing the image using the definition as though the image was an independent system.

6. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein the definition includes a corrective measure.

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7. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein determining the definition further includes testing the definition before applying the definition to the image.

15 8. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 further including determining whether the vulnerability affects the configuration setting.

9. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 further including determining the location of the vulnerability.

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10. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein the image has a configuration setting and further including implementing the definition in the configuration setting.

11. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 further including implementing the definition in a file associated with the image.

5 12. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein detecting a vulnerability in an image further includes evaluating an image of a machine, the machine configured to run as a system.

13. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein detecting a  
10 vulnerability in an image further includes abstracting a physical resource of the system to generate a virtual machine, the virtual machine representing a collection of resources to execute an application.

14. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein determining a  
15 definition configured to repair the vulnerability in the image further includes comparing the definition to the image to yield a result whereby the result indicates whether the definition is current.

15. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein determining a  
20 definition configured to repair the vulnerability in the image further includes comparing the definition to a criterion to determine whether to apply the definition to the image.

16. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein determining a definition configured to repair the vulnerability in the image further includes verifying a key in a registry associated with the image.

5 17. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein determining a definition configured to repair the vulnerability in the image further includes scanning a storage associated with the image.

18. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein determining a  
10 definition configured to repair the vulnerability in the image further includes scanning a processor state associated with the image.

19. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein determining a definition configured to repair the vulnerability in the image further includes modifying a  
15 storage associated with the image.

20. A method for repairing an image as recited in claim 5 wherein determining a definition configured to repair the vulnerability in the image further includes modifying a processor state associated with the image.

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21. A system for securing an image comprising:  
an engine configured to detect a vulnerability in an image having a configuration  
setting;

a logic module configured to determine a definition configured to secure the  
5 image and to test the definition before applying the definition to the image; and  
an access module for restoring the image using the definition.

22. A system for securing an image as recited in claim 17 wherein the engine further  
includes a decomposer configured to abstract the image of a machine.

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23. A system for assessing a vulnerability in an image comprising:  
a logic for assessing a vulnerability in an image;  
a virtualization module for abstracted the image from a file; and  
a decomposer for writing data to a registry.

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24. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:  
instructions for detecting a vulnerability in an image having a configuration  
setting;  
instructions for determining a definition configured to secure the image;  
20 instructions for testing the definition before applying the definition to the image;  
and  
instructions for restoring the image using the definition.

25. A computer program product for assessing a vulnerability in an image, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

- detecting a vulnerability in an image having a configuration setting;
- 5 determining a definition configured to secure the image;
- testing the definition before applying the definition to the image; and
- restoring the image using the definition.